



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) Winter Council Meeting  
April 30, 2014

**Meeting Location:** Mammoth Cave National Park Training Center, Mammoth Cave, KY

**Meeting Time:** 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Central Time

**Council Members in Attendance:** Chair Horace Brown, Lona Brewer, Cheryl Messenger, Marc Norton, Karen Reagor

**Absent Members:** Vice-Chair Karen Quinn, Shannon S. Graves, Greg Higdon, Sr. Amelia Stenger

**Staff in Attendance:** Elizabeth Schmitz

**Others in Attendance:** Dave Wyrick, Chief of Interpretation, Mammoth Cave National Park; Bruce Powell, Acting Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park; Gayle Giesecke, Executive Director, Friends of Mammoth Cave

#### Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown. Introductions were made by all present.

#### Minutes

Minutes from the January Council meeting were presented for review and approval.

⇒ At 1:15 PM, K. Reagor moved that the Minutes be approved as presented; L. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

#### Council Appointments

H. Brown reported that he has made recommendations to the governor for appointments to the council to be made in October 2014. He noted that the terms of all current council members expire at that time. He and E. Schmitz thanked the current members of the council for their service.

The July Council Retreat will be the last meeting during the terms of the current council members. L. Brewer recommended a separate orientation for new members once they are appointed by the Governor, but before the October council meeting.

#### 2014 Survey of Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors

E. Schmitz announced that KEEC has accepted a bid from Issues and Answers to complete the survey, analysis, and longitudinal data by June 30, 2014.

#### 2014 Master Plan

E. Schmitz reported on the tentative timeline for the development of the Environmental Education Master Plan:

- July: regional forums to receive public input
- August: retreat to write a draft Master Plan
- September: public comments on draft
- October: council review of final draft
- December: final publication

If the process is delayed, the council recommended releasing the Master Plan in digital format first, but still publishing a print version in order to better reach legislators. A contract is under development for ECU Facilitation Services to facilitate the first regional forum and the retreat, and provide support and supplies for those and the other regional meetings. The consensus of the council was to provide lodging for key participants for the retreat.

### Program Updates

**Overview.** E. Schmitz provided an overview of KEEC activities for the first four months of the calendar year. These included writing monthly articles on environmental education for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) science newsletter for teachers, monitoring legislation, assisting in submission of proposal for a federal designation of a Lexington-Louisville corridor for investing in manufacturing communities, working on the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course accreditation, working with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) board, reviewing Green Ribbon School submissions for KDE, submitting a regional Environmental Protection Agency environmental education grant proposal, presenting at the Kentucky Science Teacher's Association mid-winter break, and helping Georgetown College with their EE endorsement. Other activities included planning and facilitating a Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (KGHS) Advisory Committee meeting, a Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan Implementation Advisory Team meeting, Certification Advisory Committee meetings, Professional Environmental Educator Certification (PEEC) Workshops 3 & 4, and an Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education meeting. Agency staff also co-lead a climate change teaching workshop at the KAEE Sustainability Symposium, developed grant applications, participated in a webinar on EE and Next Generation Science Standards, were trained in SharePoint for KEEC websites, arranged for and participated in a Project Learning Tree facilitator workshop for certification students and graduates, co-lead an EE training at the Division for Air Quality, planned and facilitated the KGHS Summit, met with the Division of Forestry about potential grants, and participated in the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council awards. KEEC partnered with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to plan Earth Day festivities in the Capitol Rotunda with First Lady Jane Beshear, who along KDE Commissioner Holliday, recognized Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools and Green Ribbon Honorees, but unfortunately the exhibit area was cancelled due to snow.

**Upcoming events.** Events on the schedule for the rest of the year include submission of a grant application through Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky, completion of KEEC's *Survey of Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors*, speaking at a ribbon cutting at Carter County Middle School, participation in a Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education meeting, participation in the Governor's Kyhealthnow initiative (including compiling a survey of Kentucky edible school gardens), exhibiting at the Kentucky Association of Manufacturer's annual conference, coordinating and facilitating the Professional Environmental Educator Certification graduation, an interview with Gilmer Slone on his public access television show, coordinating and facilitating multiple Certification Advisory Committee meetings, participation in KAEE Consortium meetings, coordinating and facilitating quarterly Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education meetings, rescheduling and exhibiting at Kentucky's Earth Day at the Capital event,

developing an environment-based-education unit of study to tie to the new Kentucky Core Academic Standards for Science, meeting of PEEC instructors to restructure course for compliance with accreditation requirements, leading a session during a teacher training at KSU, fiscal year closeout, developing the Five-Year Environmental Education Master Plan through a series of regional meetings, submission of the PEEC accreditation application, KAAE conference, Children at Play Conference at Bernheim Forest, NAAEE conference in Ottawa, council meetings, 2014-15 Professional Environmental Educator Certification course.

#### **Slide show of 2014 events to date.**

#### Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course

**Evaluations.** E. Schmitz noted that this is the first year formal evaluations were done at the end of each workshop, and the first year that KEEC staff were not present at the focus group. In response to feedback, the workshops will be extended by a few hours on the final day. This will allow more time to include park tours, which will also better meet accreditation standards requiring instruction on the state's natural and cultural history. Feedback will be used not only to improve the course, but also to assist with marketing efforts.

**NAAEE Accreditation.** E. Schmitz reported that Wesley Bullock, interim administrative specialist, will produce an application for accreditation of the PEEC program through the North American Association for Environmental Education, due to NAAEE on August 1, 2014. The Certification Advisory Committee decided to apply based on the NAAEE Core Competencies rather than justify a different set of competencies.

#### Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools

E. Schmitz provided the notes from the last KGHS Advisory Meeting. She reported that Michelle Shane is revising the inventories for several different categories. K. Reagor explained that the revisions are intended to ensure that the inventories can be completed by students instead of teachers.

#### Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

E. Schmitz invited council members to attend upcoming meetings, noting that L. Brewer has attended in the past as an official representative of the council. Upcoming meetings are June 10, September 10, and December 10.

#### Budget

**Grants.** E. Schmitz reported that KEEC has applied for an EPA Regional grant, a \$35,000 Braitmeyer grant, the Investing in Manufacturing Communities partnership, and a grant from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky.

**Salaries.** E. Schmitz remarked that the governor has passed a budget bill that gives state employees incremental raises.

**Expenses.** E. Schmitz said that KGHS awards expenses were higher than anticipated. Also, KEEC purchased desks for the new offices. She explained that W. Bullock's computer is running Windows XP, which is no longer supported with security updates from Microsoft. She requested council permission to purchase a laptop for \$1000.

⇒ At 3:42 PM, K. Reagor moved that KEEC first attempt to obtain a computer, either on loan or permanently, from the Education Cabinet, then have W. Bullock use M. Shane's computer in the meantime before purchasing a computer for E. Schmitz, and giving W. Bullock her computer as a last resort; M. Norton seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned

⇒ At 3:45 PM, K. Reagor moved that Council Meeting should be adjourned; C. Messenger seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.